



PLANE CRASH. Three men escaped from this plane when it crashed at Rooty Hill today.

Three airmen escape from blazing plane after crash

Three airmen scrambled to safety from a blazing RAAF Dakota today when it caught fire after crashing in a swampy paddock near Doonside.

The airmen, whose escape even from serious injury is considered remarkable are:—

- PILOT 2 J. STRICKLAND.
- PILOT 3 McKENZIE.
- CORPORAL HILTON.

Strickland and McKenzie are fully qualified pilots, Strickland having had war service.

Hilton is a fitter with the Richmond ground staff.

The Dakota was on a training flight from Richmond.

The pilot was practising overshoot procedure on one motor.

Shortly after he opened the throttles to climb away after a dummy approach the "live" motor failed.

The Dakota dived into the paddock, cutting a 200-yard path through trees before it buried its nose in mud.

A few seconds later it was a blazing inferno.

Sole witness of the crash, Mrs. Winsom Dawson, was sitting on her front verandah about 300 yards south of the railway line at Doonside.

"It fell flat"

"I thought it was very low," she said. "Then it started to crash through the trees.

"One of the wings snapped off, and the plane slewed around and fell flat on its belly.

"I stood up and just gaped. I ran to the fence and saw the plane catch fire where the wing had broken off.

"Next thing I saw three men coming from the plane.

"I called out 'Are you all right?' and one yelled back, 'We're all right; we are all out of it,'" added Mrs. Dawson.

Within a few minutes the Richmond and Schofields crows were notified and Air Force ambulances and a fire tender were rushed to the scene.

Fire brigades from Parramatta, Bankstown and River-

stone, under District Officer Barber and Station Officer Mayhew, were called.

Firemen carried hand extinguishers a mile and a half through swampy paddocks and across Eastern Creek to the Dakota.

Rescuers were amazed to find the three fliers standing by, uninjured.

McKenzie is said to have jarred an ankle, and Hilton to have suffered a slight burn on one hand.

Unable to extinguish the

flames, firemen were forced to watch it reduced to a charred mass.

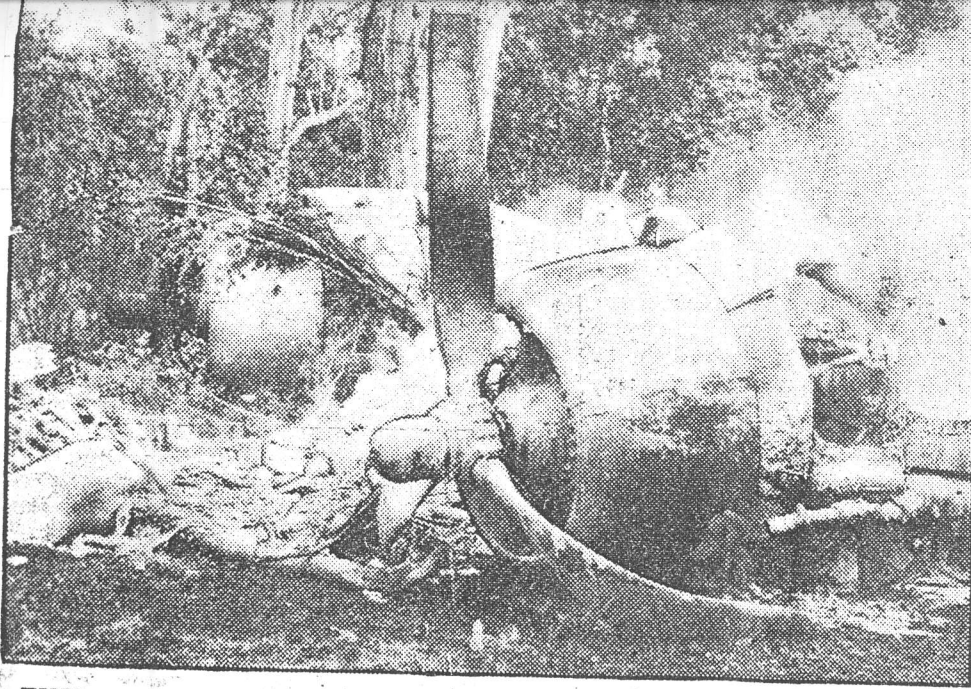
Doonside postmaster, Mr. Jack Francis, rode his motorcycle to the scene, and was at the blazing plane five minutes after the crash.

Mr. Francis looked in a side window. "I heard some metal shifting in the plane because of the heat, and thought it was a survivor," he said.

As Mr. Francis left the plane another fuel tank exploded.

11.5.50

(SYDNEY PAPER)



THIS was the R.A.A.F. Dakota, still smouldering, after it dived into heavily-timbered country at Rooty Hill (near Sydney) yesterday. The aircraft was completely burnt out. Parts of the plane were buried deep in the ground.

R.A.A.F. PLANE CRASHES Three Occupants Uninjured Scramble Clear As Flames Rise

BRISBANE PAPER

SYDNEY: After an R.A.A.F. Dakota had crashed into a swampy paddock near Doonside today, the aircraft burst into flames as the three occupants scrambled clear uninjured.

The aircraft was on a training flight from Richmond aerodrome, developed engine trouble, and dived into the paddock cutting a 200 yard path through trees before it buried its nose in mud.

The three occupants were Pilot J. Strickland, Pilot McKenzie, and Corporal Hilton.

Sole witness of the crash was Mrs. Winson Dawson, who was sitting on the front verandah of her home,

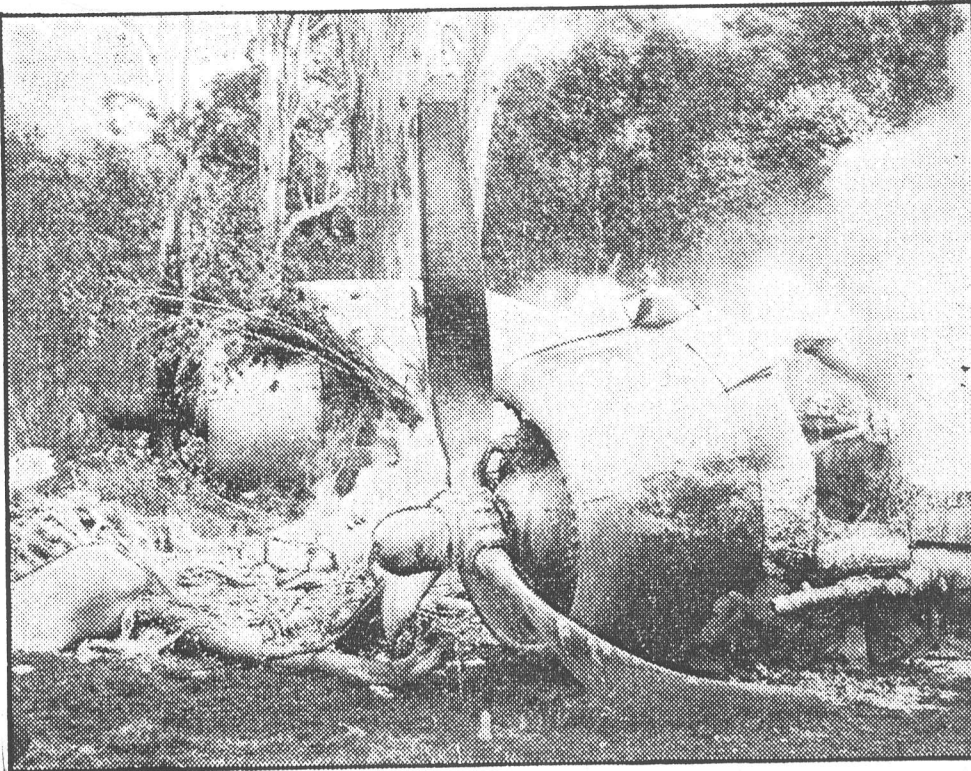
"All Right, All Out Of It"

"I was on my own," she said, "and I stood up and just gaped at it. I ran forward to the fence and I saw the plane catch fire on the side where the wing had broken off. The next thing I saw three men coming out of the plane.

"I called out to them, 'Are you all right?' and one of them yelled back, 'We're all right. We are all out of it.'"

In the meantime fire brigades from Parramatta, Bankstown and Riverstone were on their way and firemen carried hand extinguishers a mile and a half through

"We'll be late for lunch"



THIS was the R.A.A.F. Dakota, still smouldering, after it dived into heavily-timbered country at Rooty Hill (near Sydney) yesterday. The aircraft was completely burnt out just after three men had leaped

clear. Parts of the plane were buried deep in the ground. When the men knew the plane was crashing they radioed Schofields station: "We are coming down. We will be late for lunch. Keep our places in the mess."



AND THIS is the crew—unscathed. Rescuers were amazed to find them standing by the side of the blazing wreck. From left: The pilot (Joseph Strickland), the co-pilot (Angus McKenzie) and a ground fitter, Corporal Leslie Hilton.

S. 50 QLD PAPER